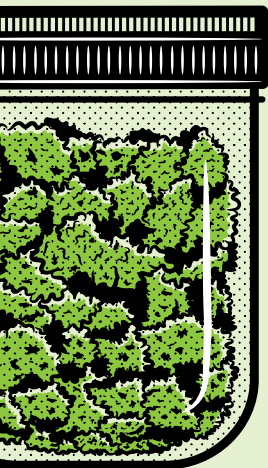


Green Guide

THE STRANGER'S LOFTIEST MAGAZINE • SPRING/SUMMER 2018



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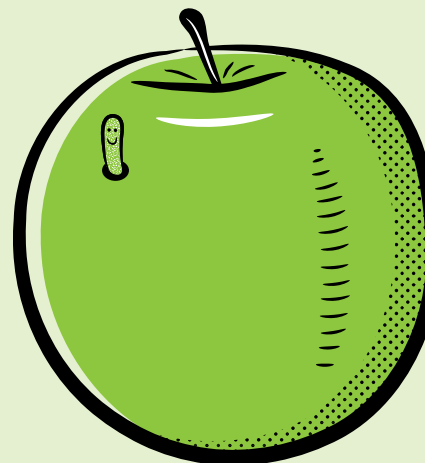
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Why can't we be like Amsterdam?

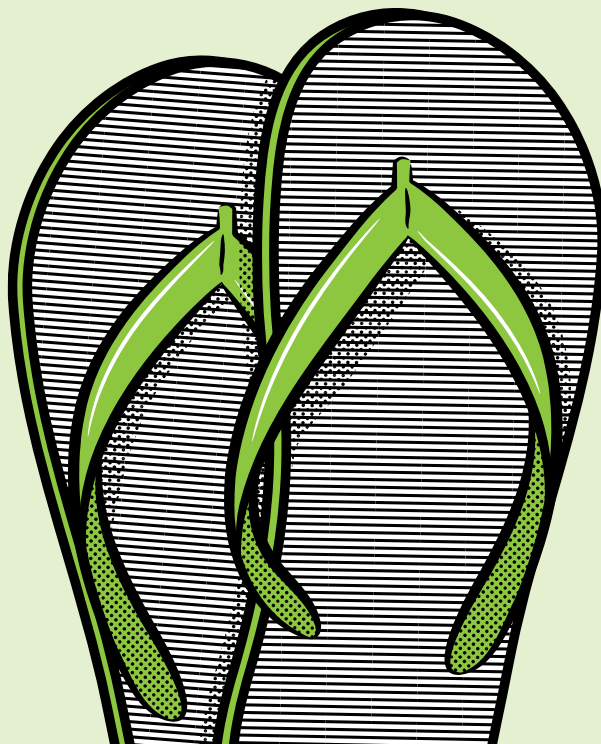
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TO DO FOR
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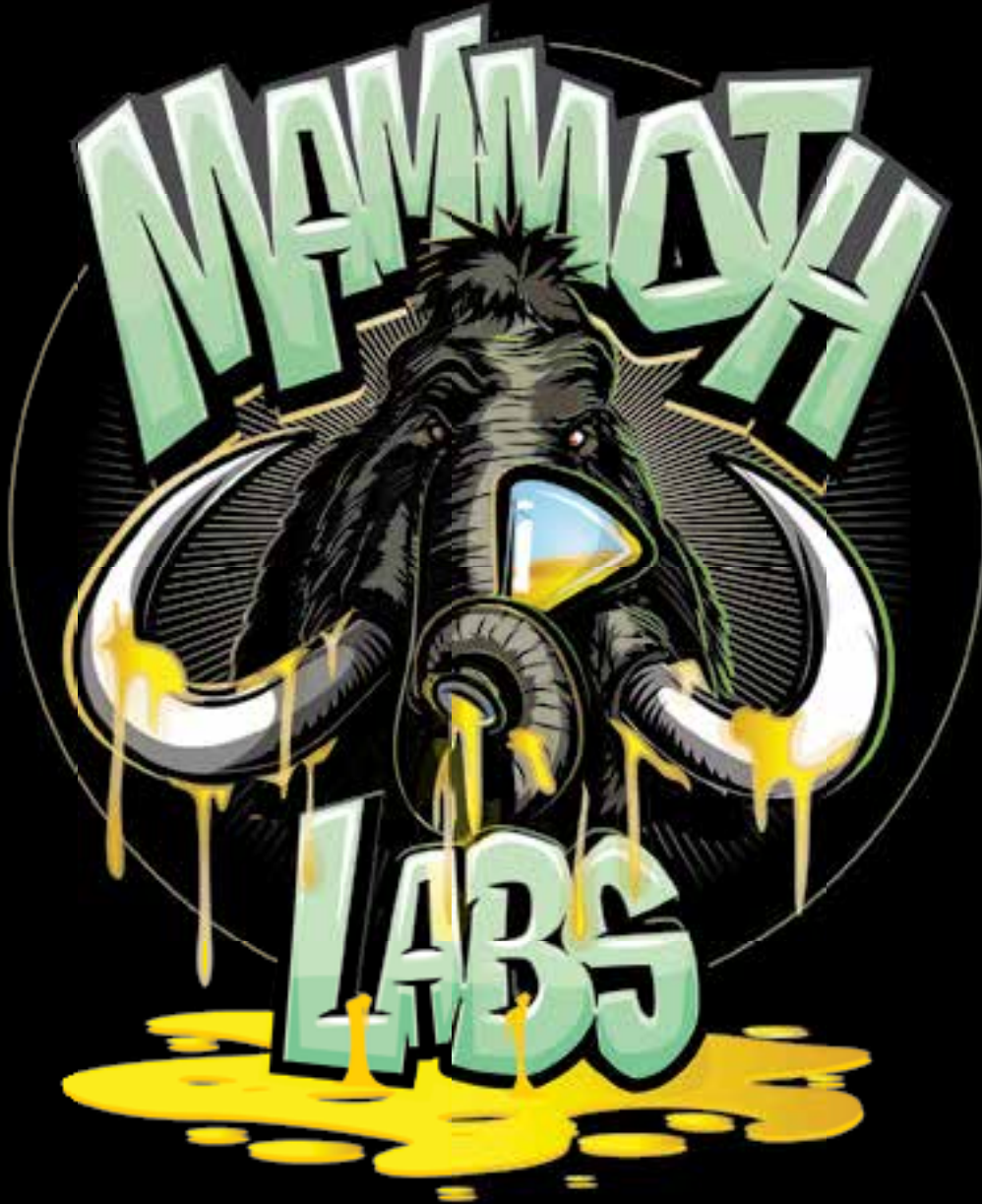


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Amsterdam is famous for its cannabis cafes. San Francisco recently got one, and Denver is getting them soon. Why doesn't Seattle have any? Can we change that? **P. 8**



Sports and edibles: two great tastes that taste great together? Or a really bad idea? College athlete turned occasional edible eater Jon Meyer weighs in. **P. 14**



How can you make money posting pictures of weed on Instagram? Katie Herzog meets Cannabess, a woman who figured out how to do it. **P. 22**



You've heard about THC and CBD, but what about CBG, CBN, and CBC? Lester Black goes hunting for rare cannabinoids. **P. 37**

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COVER ART BY MIKE MERG
MIKEMERG.COM





Confused About Indica vs. Sativa?

This handy guide should clear everything up.

With the explosion of legal cannabis shops in Seattle, casual users have reported feeling intimidated by the variety of available strains. Though most budtenders are more than happy (way more) to explain the differences at great length (way great), some people are shy about revealing their ignorance. Everything on the market is either indica or sativa, or a hybrid of the two. Which is right for you?

"I want a smooth body high that will help me fall asleep and dream of my boss being forced to dig ditches in hell while demons strip the flesh from his body like wallpaper."

"I need something that's going to help me explain to my friends why I believe free jazz is the only purely American art form."

"I'm looking for a high that can relieve my anxiety about getting pulled over for getting high while stuck in afternoon traffic on Mercer Street."

"Is there a strain that I can smoke or ingest that will make my boyfriend's electronic side project an interesting topic of conversation?"

"I'm considering deleting my Facebook account because of what happened during the 2016 election, but my college roommate's cousin's best friend's goldendoodle just gave birth to puppies and they're the cutest thing."

"It probably sounds petty, but I'm hoping there's some kind of weed that will make receiving oral sex from people who don't know how to give it seem less depressing."

"I'm still sad about David Bowie."

"Why is my cat so aloof?"

INDICA!

HYBRID!

SATIVA!



All This Weed and Nowhere to Smoke It

Amsterdam and San Francisco have weed cafes. Why can't we? And what can we do about it?

BY LESTER BLACK

Illustrations by Pete Gamlen

In Seattle, you can legally buy weed, but there's almost nowhere you can legally smoke it.

If you own your own house (praise be unto you, oh privileged and wealthy one), you obviously can light up a joint in your living room—and by the time you're down to the roach, your house will have appreciated by another \$1,000. But for the rest of us, including tourists who have come to visit expressly because they want to experience our legal weed, enjoying a joint involves an obligation to break the law.

Which makes no sense.

If you are a renter with a landlord that doesn't allow smoking pot on the premises, a tourist at a hotel, or a homeless person living on the street or in a shelter, you have no legal place to exercise your right under state law to smoke pot.

A statewide indoor smoking ban prevents any kind of smoking inside buildings. A separate state

law makes it illegal to smoke weed anywhere in public.

So where do you go? If you have walked around Seattle recently, you have already smelled the answer: You go smoke on the sidewalk. Even though it's not technically allowed, smoking weed in public in Seattle is punishable by a measly \$27 fine, and cops are instructed to try not to give those tickets out.

representing Aberdeen and Olympia, proposed a bill that would have created a permit for "marijuana lounges," similar to the ones Amsterdam is known for. These permits could be attached to existing retail pot shops and would allow customers to consume pot on the premises. Davis and others lobbied the state legislature to pass Blake's legislation.

"Right now, we have the most asinine system in the world—it's 'go smoke in the street.'"

"Right now, we have the most asinine system in the world—it's 'go smoke in the street,'" said John Davis, a longtime cannabis activist and Hempfest board member. "That's the policy of the City of Seattle."

Back in 2015, state representative Brian Blake, a Democrat

"I think it's just a reasonable accommodation to have a place for people to go," Blake said. "Using marijuana is lawful in the state, and I think it's important that we allow folks a place to do that."

The bill made it to a public hearing in the state house, but

then the Republicans ruined everything. Alarmed by the idea of allowing people to consume pot inside a cafe (the horror!), Republicans introduced language into an entirely unrelated bill that sabotaged Blake's cannabis lounge idea by making it a class D felony to operate any business that allows people to "keep or consume marijuana on the premises."

That leaves us in this bullshit situation where you can legally purchase a joint only to find yourself with absolutely no place to legally smoke it.

But Amsterdam-style businesses where people can legally consume weed inside are opening in other states, including California and Colorado, giving those places the edge over our local weed industry.

San Francisco appears to be winning the pot-lounge arms race. In the recently opened

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smoking lounge at Barbary Coast Dispensary, customers can buy weed and smoke it under the same roof. California “permits marijuana smoking at marijuana retailers with specially designed lounges,” the Associated Press reported on March 15, and San Francisco health officials are finalizing “regulations designed to protect workers from secondhand smoke and the neighborhood from unwelcome odors.”

The Barbary Coast Dispensary’s smoking lounge reportedly has exposed brick walls, ornate wood-paneled ceilings, and enough red leather to compete with a steak house. It sounds like one of the classiest public places to take a bong rip on earth.

Businesses in other states are in on the trend, too. Denver just gave a license to a place called the Coffee Joint, where customers can’t smoke joints or bowls but they *can* vape and eat edibles. “The Coffee Joint plans to charge patrons a \$5 entry fee and permit them to consume their own cannabis in edible or vapor form,” *Forbes* reported.

Portland has the Northwest Cannabis Club, which allows smoking and vaping in a social setting. It also has a “50-foot dab bar,” a huge outdoor deck, and a lounge with foosball, shuffleboard, and a pool table, according to its website. (There used to be a related Northwest Cannabis Market in Seattle, but it was technically a dispensary. It closed after the legal recreational system replaced medical marijuana dispensaries.)

Alaska has had an “on-again, off-again relationship with marijuana cafes,” according to the *Anchorage Daily News*, with various places opening and closing that have allowed certain kinds of consumption.

And Las Vegas—where casinos are already filled with cigarette-stained tourists looking for another buzz—likely won’t be far behind.

Surely Seattle, the city that gave the world the concept of a modern

coffee shop, could do pot cafes better than anyone else.

City Attorney Pete Holmes has been looking for a way to allow pot lounges since legal pot first went on sale in 2014. Deputy City Attorney John Schochet told *The Stranger*.

“We wanted people to have an alternative to smoking on the street. It’s easier to say ‘not here, but you can go there’ as opposed to saying ‘not here’ and then not giving a good alternative,” Schochet said. “We have bars where you can drink alcohol, and marijuana is legal, so there should be a place where people can use it appropriately.”

But Schochet said the city attorney’s office cannot permit pot cafes until lawmakers make it legal

Surely Seattle, the city that gave the world the modern coffee shop, could do pot cafes better than anywhere else.

to do so. That felony legislation Republicans introduced just to spite the people who were looking for regulation on cannabis clubs has made sure of that. If cannabis cafes are ever going to open in this state, that law would have to be overturned first.

Not only would that law need to change, but the city would also have to find a way to get around the Washington Clean Air Act, which is the law that bans smoking inside businesses, as well as King County’s clean air laws, which ban vaporizing indoors.

There have been a handful of bars throughout the state that have tried to open renegade pot lounges, but the Washington State Liquor and Cannabis Board has shut them down.

Opponents of cannabis cafes often claim these types of businesses would become a community nuisance, which is laughable.

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Alcohol is known for leading to aggression and bad behavior, but I've never experienced anything like that at the few pot cafes I've been inside. It's hard to imagine even a poorly managed weed lounge creating a nuisance for a community.

My first foray into weed lounges came in 2009, at a place called New Amsterdam Cafe in Vancouver, BC. I remember it as a delightfully chill place decorated with graffiti and space-themed art. As a 19-year-old, I ordered a latte and proceeded to sheepishly light up a joint with



some friends. It felt wrong, but in all the right ways. They didn't actually sell weed there, but my friends and I were able to easily buy some pot from a dealer loitering outside on Hastings Street. Vancouver law has never permitted smoking at the New Amsterdam Cafe, but authorities have looked the other way and the shop is still open for business.

Far more convenient are the "coffee shops" in Amsterdam, where you can smoke pot inside. A year after my trip to Vancouver, I traveled to Amsterdam as a wide-eyed 20-year-old amazed at the convenience of being able to purchase pot from a budtender sitting behind a counter in an actual business, and then being allowed to sit down at a

table or on a bench or pillows in that same business and get high.

I did a whole tour of the Amsterdam weed scene, visiting one coffee shop that felt like a cheesier version of Planet Hollywood and another that was Rastafarian themed. Both felt a bit over-the-top after a few joints, but everything feels a bit over-the-top a few joints in.

Easily my favorite cafe in Amsterdam was the one I stumbled upon outside of the city's tourist quarter. It lacked a gaudy theme and felt like the kind of independent neighborhood cafes that you find throughout Seattle. Hot jazz played quietly on the stereo. I bought a couple of pre-rolled joints from the counter and watched neighbors chat over cups of coffee. It seemed almost incidental when someone would occasionally light up a joint.

We have legal weed in Seattle. There's no reason we shouldn't be able to have weed cafes, too.

If you agree, you should start petitioning your elected leaders. Change needs to happen at every level of government, including the city, county, and state levels, so start making phone calls and writing e-mails. To find out who represents you at the state level (and how to reach them), go to leg.wa.gov.

Representative Blake said he would be interested in fighting for pot cafes when the legislature reconvenes next year if there appeared to be a chance of the legislation passing. There should be some support for allowing this common-sense change to state law among lawmakers, as long as they perceive a strong public desire for it. Let them know their jobs are on the line if they don't do it. 🌱

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Edibles and Sports

A match made in heaven... or hell?

BY JON MEYER

Illustrations by Tyler Gross

Sports: Some people grow up with them, and some find them later in life.

Weed: Some people grow up with it, and some find it later in life.

I grew up among the farmland and cow pies of Eastern Washington. Soccer, tennis, and golf were my babysitter. The \$50 my parents paid at the beginning of the summer for my junior golf membership was a steal compared to what they would have spent paying a neighbor to come over and play board games with me.

Weed I did not grow up with. I first smoked it when I was 20, and I coughed so much that I decided I would never try smoking it again. I suck at smoking it—as I confirmed again the next time I tried. I only recently got into weed after legalization made an ever-growing variety of edibles available to me. I find I can control my high better—and more accurately determine when things are going to kick in and wind down—when choosing to chew my pot.

Only recently have I gotten good at combining weed and sports.

GOLF

Golf was my favorite sport during high school, and I honed my craft with hours of practice (more fun than homework). The idea was that it might elevate me into a school I wasn't going to get into on my grades. Sure enough, I earned my way onto a division 1 golf team. I averaged the lowest score on the team my freshman year. I also made terrible, lazy decisions with schoolwork, got put on academic probation, quit the team, gave up golf, got my shit together, and graduated with a decent GPA in four years.

After college, I went to caddy at Bandon Dunes, a very nice golf resort on the Oregon Coast. It was there that I smoked weed for the first time. I was caddying with a guy named Liam for a group of fathers and sons for 36 holes in one day. Liam and I were each carrying two bags.

We had about an hour between rounds to grab food, and Liam wanted to smoke.

We drove his car five minutes up the road from the caddy shack.

He pulled out a small pipe, loaded it, and—after I admitted I'd never smoked before—gave me a quick tutorial. I gave it my best, pulling with my breath at the contraption a couple of times and scorching my bronchial tubes. As most first-timers experience, I didn't feel anything. Until I did.

**On a 5 mg
lemongrass Zoot,
I couldn't quite
grasp how the
golf course was
undulating.**

Back on the course, everything slowed down. I couldn't do the math for proper yardages. The clubs all started to look the same, and I kept putting them back in the wrong bag. Walking up hills was hard. "Are you okay, Jon?" one of the clients said.

Fast-forward a decade, and I'm back on the golf course, playing with a friend we happily call The

Dude. This is after legalization. He popped a tin out of his golf bag and offered me one of the hard candies clanking around inside. It was a 5 milligram lemongrass Zoot.

Obviously, after that previous experience on the green, I was slightly nervous. But an hour later, I was smiling, chuckling, and feeling very good. The Zoot was having a very specific effect on my golf playing. It was slowing my swing down. This was a great thing, as most poor shots are due to a player swinging too fast. On the other hand, during one round, I couldn't fully feel my hands. I couldn't quite grasp the way the greens were undulating. Both are a problem when trying to execute shots. I felt like an 8-year-old, or an infant, learning to swing again, which was pretty funny.

Everything about it was funny, actually. My miscues were easy to laugh off in my new state of mind. I wasn't nearly as uptight as usual about my game. And my score at the end of the round was no worse than if I'd played stone-cold sober.

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Since then, I've played a few more rounds of golf properly Zooted to see if this was a one-off, and it wasn't a one-off. It was something I could depend on each time out—less frustration, more smiling. Even just walking around in the sunshine under the blue sky was more exciting than it usually is.

With my newfound golf elixir, I decided to see if edibles might benefit me in playing other sports.

TENNIS

I'm not as good at tennis as I am at golf, but I'm not bad. You can sum up my tennis game in three characteristics: risk/reward serve, big forehand, nonexistent backhand. I was a community junior summer tennis champion (under 13 division).

Curious about whether I could achieve any benefits from playing tennis stoney, I blasted off one doubles session with half of a 10 milligram Sinners & Saints mango candy.

Tennis is a fast game, with a harder-the-faster-it-goes green object flying at your face when

you're on duty up at the net. Golf, you get to walk around; tennis, you have to be on point. If your reactions falter, you get hit in the face, and that shit hurts.

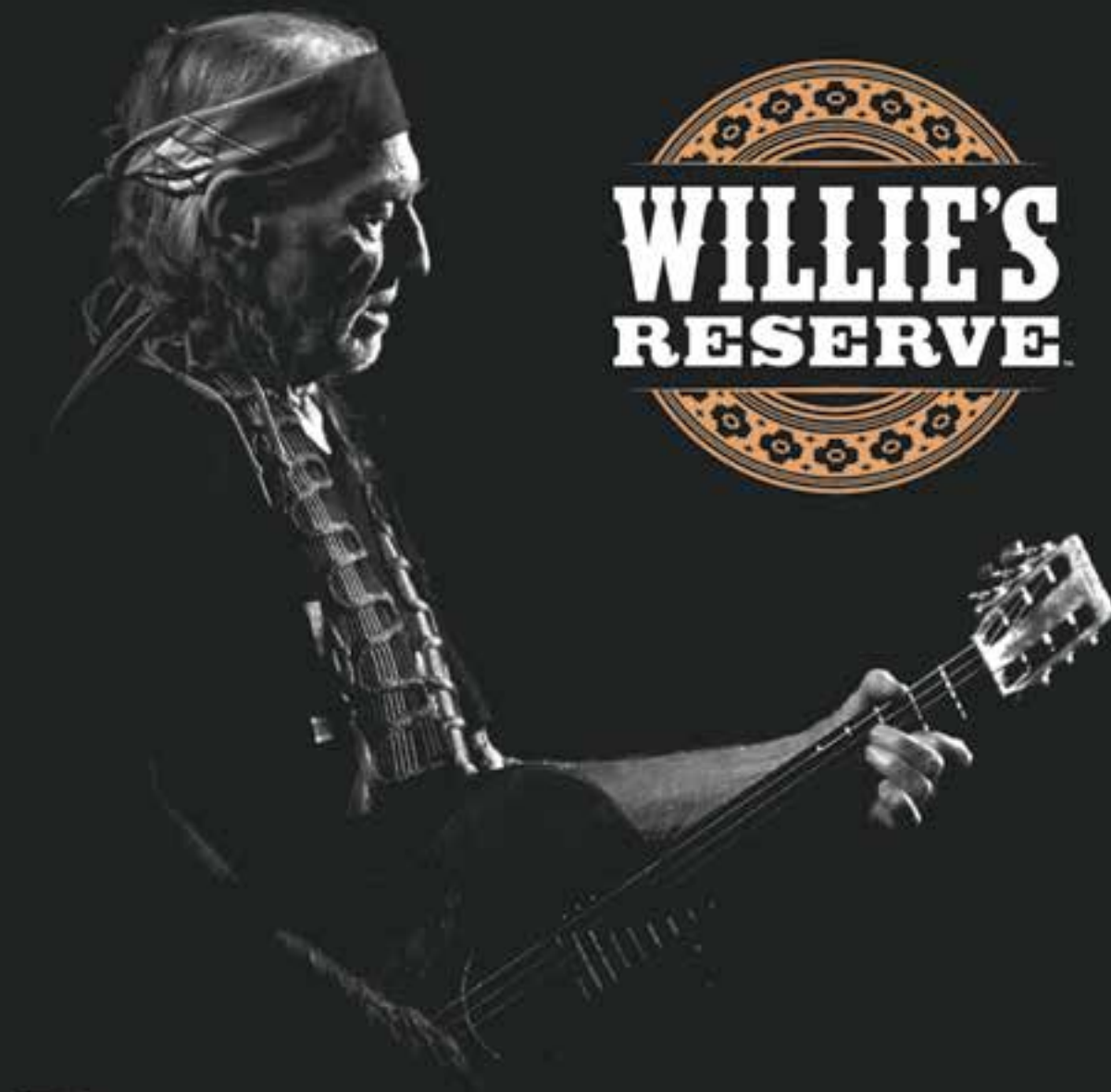
Soon enough, during the match, my body and mind were fighting each other over who was going to win. My mind wanted to

**In tennis, if your
reactions falter, you
get hit in the face.**

embarrass our opponents with that big forehand of mine and feats of brilliant thinking, while my body wanted to sit down on the court like Richie Tenenbaum.

I thought way too much about what I was doing and how the ball looked as it spun through the air. I wondered what my doubles partner was thinking of me. If I could just sit down on the court, I could relax, take off my shoes, and pass the kouchie with everyone.

After the match, I decided this maybe wasn't the best use for my supply of candies.



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SOCCER

From my early days in Seattle, I've played on a coed soccer team. It was actually one of my teammates who gave me one of my first edibles, a homemade peanut-butter chocolate, to try at home. "Eat a little bit of that and see what happens," he said. What happened was I couldn't make it out to drinks that night because I was stuck on the couch, physically unable to move, laughing an absurd amount at *The Office* and *30 Rock*.

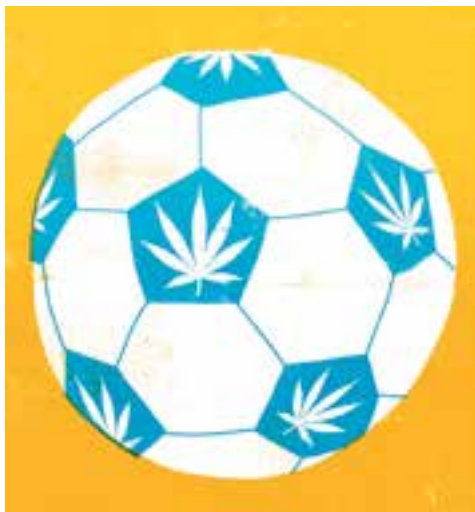
But a 10 milligram Verdelux Illuminations lime candy is a different story. All bets are off when it comes to the dosing on homemade edibles, but I can handle 10 milligrams.

I wanted to see if it would mellow the match. One thing I've noticed booting the ball around greater Seattle is that no matter the skill level of the league, you're bound to run into overaggressive players of all genders. In any context but the soccer field, I am a peacekeeper. But it's hard for me not to get in someone's face when they aggressively plow into your goalie and break his nose (that really happened) or constantly kick your ankles (which always happens).

Guess what? It *did* totally mellow the match! I could still run around the pitch and make passes, but there was something a bit slower, a bit off. Have you ever tried to run in snow boots? Playing soccer while high is kind of like that—you want to run as fast as you can, but it just doesn't feel possible. Your new top speed feels like 75 percent of your normal top speed, no matter how hard you try.

My passing and shooting were still on point, and probably even better for having a more calm mind about it all. I felt like Russell Crowe in *A Beautiful Mind*—all the angles and calculations were floating just above me, changing and recalibrating with every touch of the ball.

But the best aspect of playing boosted was everything was okay. I didn't get mad once during the game. It was like I just kind of floated around the field, doing whatever I could whenever I had the opportunity. Altercations were laughed off with an "aw-shucks" attitude. No one could do wrong. We were all friends just out for a fun night run under the lights while chasing a little white ball.



I think that's my biggest take-away from sporting in an altered state. I've never had a bad time. Sure, maybe I didn't perform to 100 percent of my skill level, but that's not really the point anymore.

Adult sports are all about the community. It's an excuse to get together with people you enjoy on a Monday night or a Saturday morning. And if there happens to be some childish aspects to the get-together—like, say, a hard candy infused with 10 milligrams of drugs—well, that's an occasion I can get behind. 🌿





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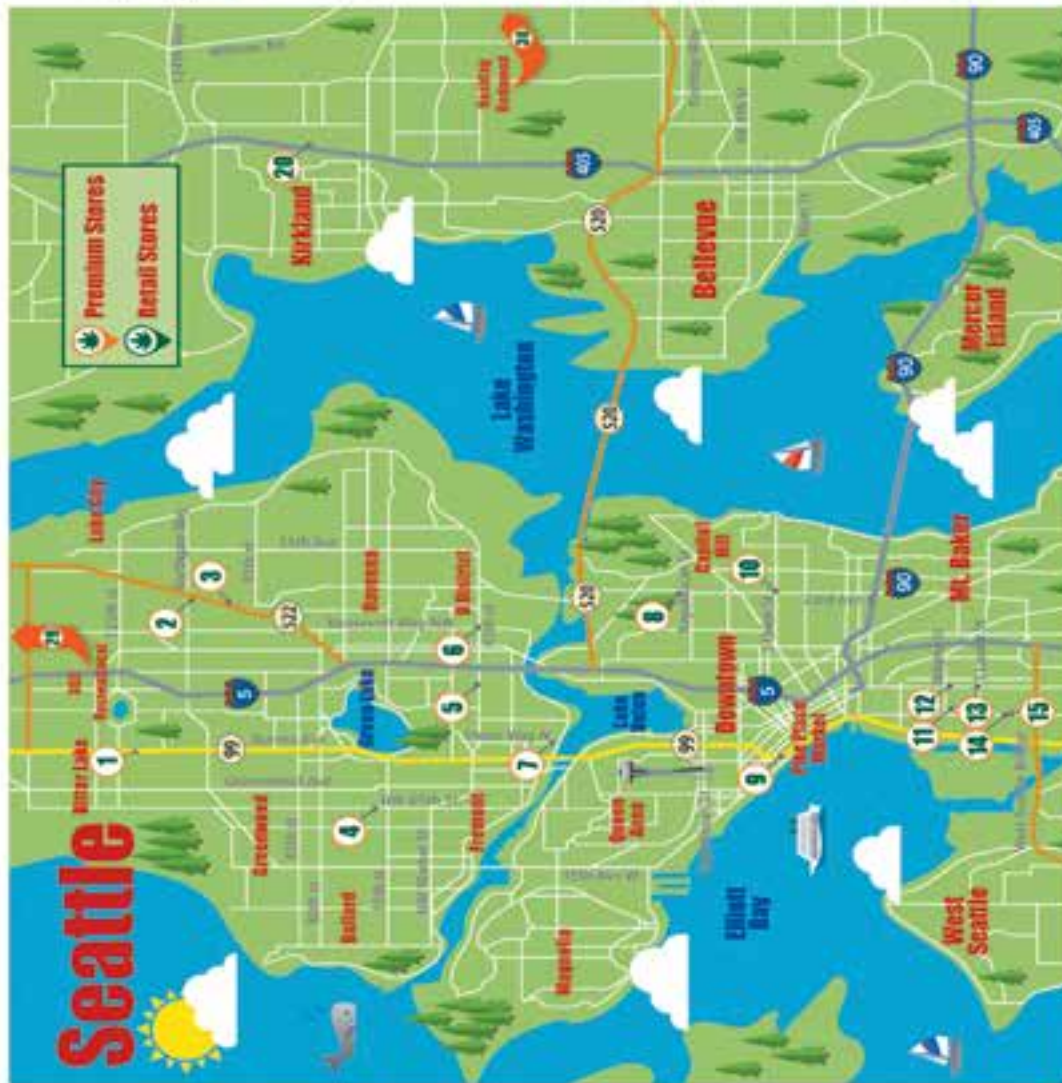
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Grams and Insta

Meet Cannabess, the libertarian who figured out how to monetize weed on Instagram.

BY KATIE HERZOG

Photos by Jenny Jimenez • Instagram photos (left) courtesy of Cannabess

Bess Byers was walking around Capitol Hill last summer when she saw the perfect Instagram opportunity. It was the weekend of Capitol Hill Block Party, and in between listening to bands and taking photos, she saw a parked Seattle Police Department cruiser with no cops in sight. She jumped onto the hood of the car, lit up a joint, and started puffing.

“There had been a bunch of reports around that time about how police departments disproportionately arrest black people for cannabis,” she remembered recently. “I’ve had friends who are

African American get hassled or even set up by the police, and I wanted to raise awareness about that. It takes me smoking weed on a cop car to draw attention to this issue, fine. I’m trying to use my platform and my privilege to speak out about the issues I’m passionate about.”

She later posted the photo to her Instagram account, @imcannabess. Accompanying it was a caption about the failed war on drugs and the over-policing of minority communities. It got thousands of likes—just like most of her posts do.

Cannabess, as she is known, has more than 85,000 followers, although

her account is only two years old. Lots of people post pictures of themselves smoking weed on Instagram, but Byers is one of the few who have managed to turn smoking weed and posting on Instagram into a career.

On Instagram, she looks part fashion model and part dragon, with smoke billowing from her mouth as she gets high in photogenic locales. There is Cannabess smoking weed in the woods, in the snow, in lingerie, in a pumpkin patch, with her late cat (named, naturally, Miss Kush), on top of mountains, and under elevated freeways. In her most



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Shooting plants at House of Cultivar, one of her clients.

popular photo, which got more than 20,000 likes, Byers poses with a pile of weed the size of a Smart car.

The moniker Cannabess came, fittingly enough, from an online connection. It was a Tinder date who thought of it. After she told the guy her name was Bess, he asked if

With 85,000 followers, she makes \$500 to \$600 for one sponsored post.

people call her “Cannabess.”

“They don’t,” she told him. “But they’re about to.”

Byers, a 31-year-old Tri-Cities native, has a marketing company called Blaise Creative. She uses her Instagram account both to promote the cannabis brands she partners with and to recruit new clients.

One recent morning, I joined her on a visit to House of Cultivar, a cannabis company based in Sodo. She can often be found at weed farms like this, shooting plants and networking with growers and other people in the industry. Byers does marketing, branding, and digital property management for a variety of weed brands (read: she runs their Instagram, Twitter, and Facebook accounts). During a very

fragrant tour of the facility—from the lab where strains are developed to the rooms where massive, sticky buds are harvested, dried, and packaged—Byers told a story about her family.

She’d recently given her grandmother a CBD extract to help with her health issues.

“My 89-year-old grandma was having some breathing problems,” Byers said. “I was like, ‘Grandma, cannabis is a bronchodilator. Why don’t you try some weed?’ I gave her a high-CBD, low-THC vape pen, but my mom ended up giving her the wrong strain, and they both got really stoned. My mom was like, ‘Bess, we wanted the sleepy weed.’ And I was like, ‘Mom, they call it sleepy weed because you get so stoned you fall asleep.’”

Byers says she doesn’t smoke all that much considering her job (“I can’t be stoned during the day unless I’m going to crank out photo edits”), but it’s possible her memory has taken a hit: She told me the story about her grandmother twice.

*

Back at her Green Lake apartment—which is well stocked with houseplants, crystals, and an ever-expanding collection of weed products—Byers told me that her

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A libertarian, she believes in low (or no) taxes and less gun control.

Instagram success has been part savvy marketing and part luck. One early photo of hers was reposted by *High Times*, the weed magazine founded 40 years before weed was legal in any state. Another was reposted by Tommy Chong of the Cheech & Chong dynasty.

But despite these endorsements from old-school, black-market weed icons, Byers represents the new generation of legal weed smokers. Instead of taking bong hits and overdosing on Doritos and video games, she gets high and exercises. She would easily blend in with the rosé drinkers and self-care moms who have become a valuable demographic in the legal weed industry.

As cannabis has gone mainstream, it's increasingly marketed as a wellness product—something holistic and feminine, an of-the-earth solution to life's ills that even Gwyneth Paltrow would recommend. A survey of more than 1,200 women by BDS Analytics found that women are the most likely demographic to use cannabis for "self-care."

Byers is one of these women. She recommends cannabis suppositories for menstrual cramps and cannabis topicals for skin care. Certainly it doesn't hurt her business that she is also an attractive young woman; she has long,

dark hair and bright white teeth that belie the amount of time she spends with smoke in her mouth. But it's important to Byers that she isn't just viewed as a weed model.

"I don't want to be perceived as just a hot woman in the industry," she said. "I've seen women taking naked bong rips and that kind of stuff, but I've been careful about trying to not sexualize myself. At the same time, I don't think there's anything wrong with feminine beauty. And part of it is just playing the Instagram game. The algorithm boosts pics with faces in them."

While the bulk of Byers's income comes from her marketing company and not through Instagram, her social-media presence does help her build her business, and sometimes she also gets paid to post photos of products directly. Byers says that it's standard to charge \$5 to \$7 per thousand followers for a sponsored post. So, with 85,000 followers, she can make \$500 to \$600 for a single image with someone's product in it.

That's good money for getting high and taking pics, but Byers says she keeps her sponsored content to a minimum. "If all my posts were sponsored, it wouldn't be credible. People would see me as an ad channel," she said. "I only support great brands; I like to show them off. And I only work with brands that

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Millions have watched a video of her getting high with her dad.

represent my morals and values.”

Her own morals and values fall far to the right of the typical Seattle stoner. She identifies as a libertarian who believes in small government; she believes in low (or no) taxes; she personally favors less, not more, gun control; and, at times, she espouses views that veer into bizarre conspiracy-theory territory. Last year, she says, she was twice suspended from Twitter after tweeting about Pizzagate. She also suspects there was more than one shooter in Las Vegas and thinks 9/11 may have been an inside job.

“I don’t trust the government and I don’t trust mainstream media,” she told me when I asked her about these political views. “I’m just very skeptical of people in power. *House of Cards* isn’t just a TV show.”

Considering her politics, perhaps it’s no surprise that Byers was raised in a conservative household. Her family wasn’t entirely down with her getting into the weed industry, but they’ve since come around. Her dad even agreed to take part in a video with her called “Parents & Kids Smoke Weed Together for the First Time” made by Seattle-based Cut, the creative team behind the mega-viral hit “Grandmas Smoking Weed for the First Time.” The

video that Byers and her dad were in has been viewed more than eight million times. In it, she teaches him to blow smoke rings.

*

After high school in the Tri-Cities, Byers went to Washington State University, where she studied public relations and Mandarin.

“I don’t want to be perceived as just a hot woman in the industry,” she says.

Once she graduated, she moved to China for a year and worked at an advertising agency. It was there, she says, that her anti-government ethos developed. “In China, you don’t talk bad about the government online because all of your digital correspondence is monitored,” she said. She began to perceive similarities between state-sponsored nationalist propaganda in China and in the United States.

After China, she moved to Southern California, did freelance work as a photographer, and started a nonprofit called A Generation Empowered, with the mission of educating millennials about the national debt and other fiscal issues

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“Why can’t we have recreational home grows?” she wonders.

through digital media. One of her videos, about the military-industrial complex, got 1.2 million views.

Byers still posts about the military-industrial complex. It’s part of her personal brand, which she describes as “Pacific-Northwest-outdoorsy meets California-high-fashion.” (“Meets Idaho-libertarian,” I would add.)

“I’ve got 85,000 followers on Instagram, and I want to advocate for them,” Byers told me. “Like, why can’t we have recreational home grows in Washington? And medical patients can’t legally own a firearm in Washington State, which I think is crazy. God forbid you’ve got some kid down the street who knows grandpa has a medical grow. Grandpa should be able to defend himself in case that kid comes in and robs him. I’m not advocating for getting baked and going to the gun range, but I think people should be able to defend themselves.”

Her followers don’t seem to mind. A recent photo shows her table from overhead, the scene composed just so. Beside a candle and a stack of coffee-table books, there’s a picture-perfect joint and a pile of beautiful green buds atop a copy of the novel *1984*.

“Rainy Seattle Saturdays call for a good joint and a great book!” the caption reads. “*1984* by George

Orwell is one of my favorites. I recently had an industry female call me a ‘right wing conspiracy theorist,’ as if questioning the government is a BAD thing... Maybe my beliefs are unconventional, but I have the facts to back them and am proud to think outside the box. So while some people might call me names, most people call me woke.” That post got more than 2,600 likes.

Toward the end of my day with Byers, a friend of hers, also in the cannabis marketing industry, came over for a video shoot. They were working on the inaugural video for a forthcoming YouTube series, which Byers hopes will be good for growing her audience and building her brand.

I watched as she did her makeup, clipped extensions in her hair, loaded a bong, and posed for the camera. She looked, for all appearances, like a typical pot-loving gal, except perhaps for her T-shirt, which was black with a bald eagle perched atop the letters “USA” and embroidered with cannabis leaves.

“Hey, guys!” she said to the camera, like every YouTube star to come before and after her. Then she took a bong hit, let out a massive billow of smoke, and started answering questions from her fans. It was just another day at the office for Cannabess. 🌿

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Hunting for Rare Cannabinoids

Welcome to the world beyond THC.

BY LESTER BLACK

Illustration by Thomas James

You know about THC, pot's most famous intoxicant. You've probably heard about CBD, pot's chemical that can be medicine but won't get you high. But what about CBG, CBN, and CBC?

Scientists have identified more than 100 unique active drugs in pot that play with our body's endocannabinoid receptors, but the vast majority of legal weed is a mix of only two, THC and CBD.

That's due largely to the nature of pot prohibition. When weed was completely illegal, the incentives for black-market growers were simple: find a way to grow the most potent weed (the stuff with the most THC) from the smallest indoor plants as quickly as possible. Weed growers didn't have the luxury of spending resources exploring minor cannabinoids that may or may not be profitable, nor did they have access to labs that could precisely test for these compounds.

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Right now, retail shelves are covered in pot that is mostly different shades of the same thing, but it's not going to be that way forever. Welcome to the future, where weed is more than just THC.

★

Pick up your nearest nug of pot and look at it. Is it covered in white crystals that are sticky to the touch? Those are the pot's cannabinoids, the active chemicals in weed, and chances are most of the chemicals that you are currently looking at are THC, or tetrahydrocannabinol. If you're holding a particularly potent nug, THC makes up more than 20 percent of the entire weight of that flower in your hand.

All cannabinoids are united by the fact that they interact with our body's endocannabinoid system, a neurological network of receptors our body uses to regulate many of our core physiological functions, like appetite, mood, and memory. Each cannabinoid has its own chemical structure, which determines what kind of effect it has when it interacts with the endocannabinoid receptors in our bodies.

A change in one atomic bond here or there will elicit different effects when consumed by humans. And these chemicals are constantly changing. Before a pot plant produces THC, it produces a different cannabinoid called cannabigerol, or CBG, which the plant then converts into pot's most famous chemical. Cannabinoids continue changing after the plant has been harvested. Sometimes they change into entirely new, and possibly profitable, chemicals.

For example, if you let the THC on a harvested flower degrade, it slowly turns into cannabinol, or CBN, a cannabinoid that appears to be less psychoactive than THC but also extremely sedative.

More than 10 million Americans are prescribed pharmaceutical sleep aids like Ambien that can have terrible side effects. Is aged weed, aka CBN, the herbal sleep aid that can safely put America to sleep?

Joe Derr, of Poulsbo processing company Green Revolution, thinks so. Green Revolution sells a weed tincture called Beauty Sleep that is loaded with CBN, and Derr said it is helping people with sleep disorders across the state free themselves from pharmaceutical drugs.

"I think more people are finding that it is a good alternative—instead of the bullshit that their doctor wants to put on them," Derr said.

Beauty Sleep comes in a bottle that has 80 milligrams of THC, 40 milligrams of CBD, and 20 milligrams of CBN. I used the dropper to dose myself every night for a week before I went to sleep, and this stuff definitely works.

That's unusual for me with pot. Most weed will keep me up for at least an hour after ingesting it. But Beauty Sleep consistently relaxed my body and mind, and within 30 minutes I felt physical relaxation. I was asleep before I could notice any strong mental stoning.

It also did not feel in any way like Ambien. Beauty Sleep felt like something that was casually guiding me to sleep, whereas Ambien, a drug I've been prescribed in the past, feels like sleep is being forced upon you by



This is high in CBN, making it an alternative to Ambien.

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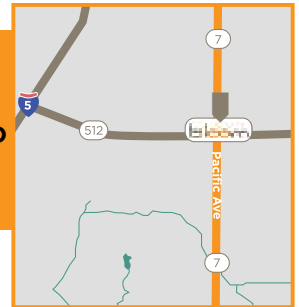


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something that will fuck you up if you try to resist. Beauty Sleep also doesn't have Ambien's horrible side effects, like diarrhea, nausea, or headaches.

My week on CBN convinced me that this minor cannabinoid is worthy of study. If a fairly small pot processor in Poulsbo could get these results, what could the might of America's billion-dollar biochemistry industry do?

Don't hold your breath to find out. There are currently no clinical trials in the United States on CBN, according to clinicaltrials.gov. Thanks to the federal government's effective ban on studying pot, there aren't likely to be clinical trials anytime soon. Anything that is derived from pot is considered a Schedule I substance by the US government, the most tightly controlled class of drugs according to federal law. That adds years of bureaucratic red tape and legal hoops to jump through, which scientists are rarely able to successfully navigate.

That creates an ironic situation where recreational pot customers have better access to these compounds with tantalizing potential for research than the world's leading medical institutions.

What researchers must wait years for is available on retail shelves right now for anyone with cash and a valid ID.

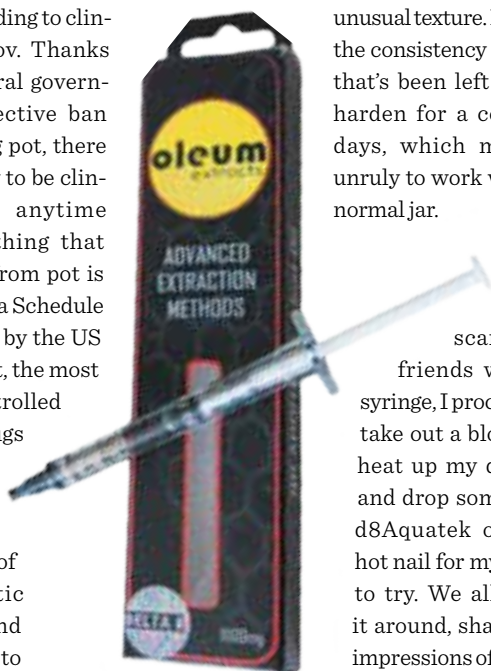
★

At first blush, Oleum Extracts'

d8Aquatek looks like it should probably be illegal.

Oleum packages this clear concentrate in a syringe, giving it a heroin-like feel. When a few friends were over at my house on a recent Friday evening, I pulled it out and immediately someone said, "Holy shit, what is that?"

While it may resemble some kind of hard drug waiting to be injected, d8Aquatek is actually just another dabbable concentrate. Oleum packages this clear distillation in a syringe because of its unusual texture. It's about the consistency of honey that's been left open to harden for a couple of days, which makes it unruly to work with in a normal jar.



This contains delta-8, which has been shown to reduce cancerous tumors in mice.

After scaring my friends with the syringe, I proceeded to take out a blowtorch, heat up my dab nail, and drop some of the d8Aquatek onto the hot nail for my friends to try. We all passed it around, sharing our impressions of dabbing this unusual product.

D8Aquatek is filled with delta-8-tetrahydrocannabinol, a cannabinoid that is just a few atomic bonds different than delta-9-tetrahydrocannabinol, the version of THC that everyone knows and loves. There has been very little research done on delta-8 (as it is usually referred to by people in the know in the pot industry), but what has been studied has yielded some very interesting results.

Scientists saw the promise of delta-8 way back in 1975, when

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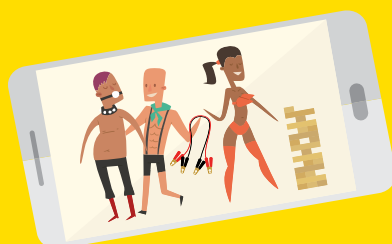


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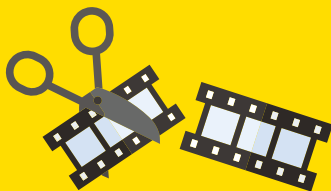
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it was shown to reduce the growth of cancerous lung tumors in mice. The researchers found, according to their study published in the *Journal of the National Cancer Institute*, that when mice were given an oral mixture of delta-8-THC, delta-9-THC, and CBN, they saw a reduction in their primary tumor size—and they lived longer.

When Israeli researchers gave delta-8 to a group of pediatric oncology patients experiencing nausea from chemotherapy, it

adds a small amount of pot terpenes back into the concentrate—but the dabs themselves felt especially light. Some research shows delta-8 is less psychoactive than pot's more famous version of THC, but these dabs absolutely got us high.

It gave me an intensely energetic head high without any feeling of physical relaxation. The dabs seemed to lead us into rabbit holes of conversations—we had planned on playing a board game

but never got around to it—but without the goofy stoniness pot conversations usually have. It felt energetic and clearheaded, a high that clearly lent itself to being productive.

Earlier in the week, I had visited the Oleum facility in Kent, where dozens of hoodied and bearded employees were busily working with industrial lab equipment to create some of the finest concentrates in the state. Oleum, which shares an industrial park with an auto body shop, has a scrappy feeling to it, but they are actually doing some of the most



LESTER BLACK

Aaron Palmer, cofounder of Oleum Extracts, filters cannabis oil on its way to becoming delta-8-THC.

was completely effective. Over the course of 480 treatments, the doctors saw 100 percent cessation of any nausea, with negligible observed side effects, according to the study published in the journal *Life Sciences* in 1995.

Like CBN, there are no current clinical trials on delta-8 in the United States. So my kitchen counter d8Aquatek dab session with my friends might just have been the most up-to-date research on delta-8.

The dabs had a faint herbal, zesty flavor to them—delta-8 is tasteless by itself, though Oleum

advanced cannabis processing in the world. I asked Oleum founder Graham Jennings how it felt to be on the cutting edge of refining cannabinoids.

“That’s my favorite part of this business, being able to isolate something and create these things that are entirely new,” he said.

Jennings said Oleum is always working on isolating new cannabinoids and is developing products with CBG and CBN in them, so I asked him about a different cannabinoid that has been on my mind, tetrahydrocannabivarin, also known as THCV.

Jennings's face immediately lit up when I mentioned it. Unlike CBN and delta-8, THC cannot be converted into THCV, therefore you must find one of the rare plants that creates a lot of THCV by itself. Jennings and Aaron Palmer, Oleum's other cofounder, said they would love to get their hands on some of it, but the odds of that are minimal.

"There are a couple of varieties now that are high in it, but they are under super lock and key, I wouldn't even know how to get them," Palmer said.

That didn't stop me from looking.

★

THCV is probably the most sought-after cannabinoid on earth. Industry people call it things like "the sports car of weed" and "skinny pot," terms that allude to its effects and rarity.

In 2017, Vice news followed Franco Loja and Arjan Roskam, the founders of the famous Green House Seed Company, into the Democratic Republic of the Congo as they looked for rare plants that might produce THCV. A grueling journey brought back a strain that tested at only 1.1 percent THCV—a fairly tiny amount, but enough for Roskam to say that it was "worth the effort, going into the jungle, fighting your way through, bribing your way through, in the end you have the reward." Loja later died after contracting malaria on a subsequent trip in January 2017.

What about THCV could entice someone to risk death to hunt for it?

It's not because it will just get you higher. In fact, it appears to create effects that are almost the opposite of what most people associate with smoking weed. THCV has been shown to be energizing and appetite suppressing, two traits that make it an obvious candidate for a valuable form of pot. Who in America doesn't want to lose weight and get more energy

from an herbal drug?

The business appeal of THCV is painfully obvious. GW Pharmaceuticals, the British company that has used the cover of America's pot prohibition to go light years ahead of any other single company in developing pharmaceutical pot medicine, has won a number of American patents for the isolation and use of THCV as medicine. One of GW Pharmaceuticals patents gives a laundry list of uses for THCV, including treating obesity, schizophrenia, epilepsy, cognitive disorders such as Alzheimer's disease, bone disorders, bulimia, obesity associated with type II diabetes, and drug, alcohol, or nicotine abuse or dependency.

GW Pharmaceuticals has yet to publicly release any THCV, and it is exceptionally hard to find in any significant quantities on the recreational cannabis market. The highest THCV result in the 2014 High Times cup in Seattle was only 1 percent THCV. Even in the concentrate category that year, THCV tested up to only 2 percent.

I called and e-mailed every pot grower, breeder, and retail buyer I knew in the state, and I still couldn't find anything that could beat these percentages. The most fruitful result was from Western Cultured, the Bellevue farm that grows the best lemon haze on the market. Western Cultured is helmed by Brianna Hughes, who told me that most of their strains test at a minimal THCV level, but their Dutch Treat can run higher thanks to "a special genetic line we've kept since 2012 in the medical cannabis days."

"Most of our strains have trace—less than 0.2% THCV, but our Dutch Treat runs around 1.0 to 1.4%," Hughes wrote in an e-mail.

She had just cut down a new batch of Dutch Treat and sent it out for testing. A few days later, she e-mailed me back with the

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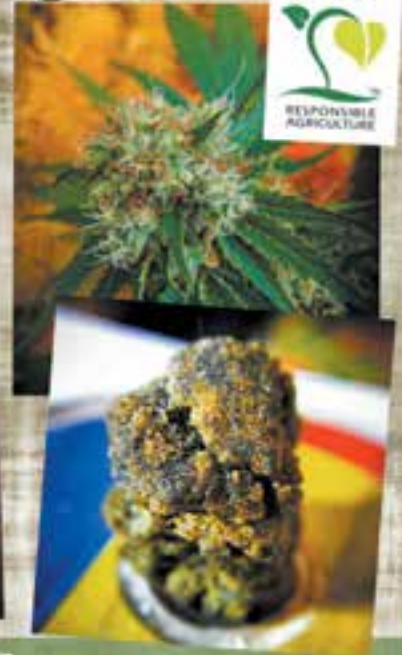
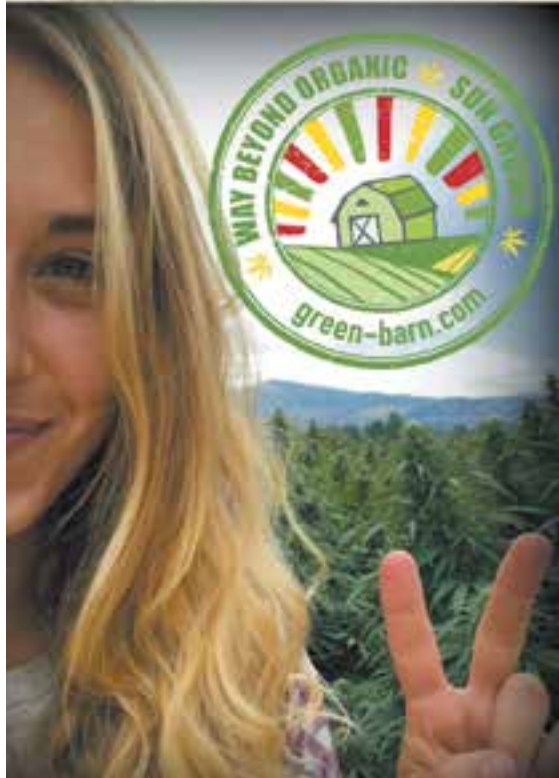
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results. That latest batch was at 1.31 percent, right within Hughes's expected range.

That is an impressive result—remember Loja and Roskam were able to get only 1 percent from heirloom pot they had scoured the Congo for—but it is probably not enough to elicit those diamond-studded effects. There's some evidence that THCV behaves in very different ways depending on how large of a dose we give our bodies. At a low dose, it might be only a fraction as psychoactive as its common cousin THC. But at a high dose, it turns into the appetite suppressing, stimulating sports car of a drug that everyone wants to get their hands on.

And there *are* strains with high levels of THCV. Just nothing that's for sale in Washington State, it seems.

Eventually I got ahold of someone who actually has a lot of THCV. Kymron deCesare, the chief research officer for Steep Hill Labs in Tukwila, is one of the few people in the United States to have a legitimate supply of THCV.

"For more than a year and a half, I have been sitting on six pounds of plant matter that I know for a fact contains 200 to 250 grams of THCV," deCesare told me over the phone. "I have not extracted that yet because I am not going to consider touching it until I have exactly the right extraction equipment so nothing gets gooped up. It's so valuable, I cannot afford to make a mistake."

How did deCesare come into possession of more than 200 grams of the most sought after cannabinoid on earth? Mostly by accident. A California medical farmer, who goes simply by Doug, sent deCesare a sample of flower he thought was from a Harlequin strain, which is supposed to be high in CBD. But deCesare's testing showed something very different: The flowers came back

with a remarkably high amount of THCV. In light of this discovery, deCesare named the strain "Doug's Varin," after the farmer, and has continued to work on refining the strain's THCV content, according to an interview "Doug" gave to a trade journal published in 2015.

Will Doug's Varin soon be on the shelves of retail stores across America? Probably not, as deCesare said he couldn't comment on Steep Hill's plans for the strain, although he did indicate the company is actively researching it.

Any seasoned hunter will tell you that not all hunting trips return any game, and so it went with my search for some tetrahydrocannabivarin I could try, the so-called "sports car" of pot. That doesn't mean we should stop keeping an eye out for these rare cannabinoids. We are still in the early stages of rigorous research on all that pot has to offer.

One of the most promising aspects of this research is the spread of professional cannabis testing labs across the country. The industry now has scientists at its disposal for testing for rare cannabinoids. Jeffrey Raber, founder of the cannabis lab the Werc Shop, said it is "exceptionally nominal" to test for cannabinoids beyond just THC and CBD, and added that exploring these other compounds might be a way for companies to set themselves apart in the industry.

"If I'm a cultivator that feels pressure because everyone is doing the same thing I am doing, then do something else," Raber said. "If you're the first with something new like that, it can be really beneficial to that group and solidify your place in the marketplace."

It's hard to say if CBN, delta-8-THC, or THCV will actually revolutionize the way we think about pot, but it seems like it's well worth looking into. 🌱



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Up in Smoke 40th Anniversary

Fri April 20 at SIFF Cinema Egyptian

April

4/20 Bash with Weener

"Seattle's brownest Ween tribute cover band" Weener will perform "more songs than you can shake a stick at to drive you crazy" in honor of everyone's favorite stoner holiday. (*Blue Moon Tavern, Fri April 20, 9 pm, \$7.*)

4/20 with Boys Club

Groove to the THC-addled sounds of Boys Club, another Ween tribute band. (*Parliament Tavern, Fri April 20, 9 pm, \$5.*)

420Fest

Seattle Hempfest members get free admission to this gathering with pizza, live DJs, and a raffle. Membership is also available for purchase, starting at \$15. (*Culture Yard, Fri April 20, 3–10 pm, free/\$15.*)

After Hours

Seattleites love being drunk and/or high around science, and this event will give you party nerds your fix. Imbibe cocktails, play with VR, see live experiments, gawk in darkness at the Planetarium, encounter butterflies, and more—all in the blissful absence of those pesky kids. Plus, while this event's date may be a coincidence, it's a good 4/20 option, and the promotional copy is full of stoner puns: They invite you to "end your work week on a high note" and "witness brilliant laser colors blazing overhead," they write that they'll be "keeping our arches lit," and they promise that "After-Hours will blow your mind as you

soar with butterflies...and explore all things green with our educators from Mercer Slough Environmental Education Center in Bellevue." (*Pacific Science Center, Fri April 20, \$22.*)

Bleeding Tree

Bleeding Tree writes, "Come celebrate 4/20 with us ya crazy stoners!" Dress up as your favorite pop artist to see Top40 cover band live as they take on iconic tracks by artists like Katy Perry, AC/DC, Lady Gaga, Metallica, Beastie Boys, Coolio, Sublime, and many more. (*Skagit Valley Casino Resort, April 20–21, 9 pm, free.*)

Cannabass, Babylon System

Get wild for the greenest of holidays with a night of reggae-inspired beats and bass-heavy dance music from Cannabass and Babylon System, with additional guest sets by Root for the Villian, Dot Diggler, Nofux Gibbons, Jason Curtis, MBM, Eazeinthebreeze, Jimi Jaxon, Dado, and Agate. (*Substation, Fri April 20, 10 pm–4 am, \$10.*)

Daddy's Stash: A Night of Cannabis, Comedy, and Charity

Still drowsy from 4/20? Watch the Maple Daddies' low-key, pro-stoner variety show with special guests Day Job, SMAT, and Mischief. Proceeds will go to New Beginnings, which helps survivors of abuse. (*The Pocket Theater, Sat April 21, 10 pm, \$10/\$14.*)

The Dope Show

Tyler Smith presents the Dope Show, which offers two performances by a lineup of comedians: one delivered sober, then another

delivered several (smoky) minutes later, totally baked. (*Historic Everett Theater, Fri April 20, 8 pm, \$12/\$16.*)

★ An Evening with Kevin Smith

Enjoy an evening of slacker entertainment from Kevin Smith, director of *Clerks I and II*, *Dogma*, and other movies for stoned people. (*Neptune Theatre, Fri April 20, 10 pm, \$34.*)

The Gateway Show: 4/20

One: Four comics on top of their mental game will do their sets. Two: These four comics get very, very stoned. Three: You watch the poor bastards attempt to tell more jokes while their brains swim around somewhere in the upper mesosphere. It's kind of like that experiment where they gave spiders THC and watched them make some pretty awful webs. Erin Ingle will host this special 4/20 edition with Ivan Decker, Maggie Maye, Myles Weber, and Rachel Walls. The regular monthly show will resume at Jai Thai on May 5. (*Broadway Performance Hall, Fri April 20, 8 pm, \$20/\$25.*)

Herban Legends 4/20 Birthday Bash

Party with the Belltown weederly in celebration of both 4/20 and their birthday. (*Herban Legends, Fri April 20, 2–8 pm.*)

High Art: Luis Vela and Adrian Estrada

See selected vibrant and trippy photographs by Luis Vela and Adrian Estrada. (*Vela, free, through April 30.*)

High Pulp, Shakewell

Hear a mashup of funk, soul, R&B, and hip-hop from local funk supergroup High Pulp, with

4/20 support from tectonic dance group Shakewell. (*The Royal Room, Fri April 20, 8:30 pm, \$10/\$15.*)

The Hilarious Comedy Festival

Just before the most relaxed day of the year, enjoy live comedy in its various flavors and incarnations—stand-up, roast, interactive, game show—with special shows highlighting funny queer, female, and POC stoners. (*Naked City Brewery & Taphouse, April 12–14, \$20/\$60.*)

Hooligoons Double Album Release Show

Local Renton crew Hooligoons will celebrate their double album release this weekend in partnership with HITZ Cannabis and opening support from Burnt Money, Davey Tsunami, Walker, and Bitches from the NAM. (*Substation, Fri April 13, 8 pm, \$10.*)

Hot Sandwich: The Toasted Sub

This sketch comedy troupe suggests you inhale a little somethin'-somethin' before their show. (*The Pocket Theater, April 19–20, \$10/\$14.*)

★ Jay and Silent Bob Get Old

Kevin Smith and Jason Mewes, the filmmakers behind the classic slacker comedy *Clerks* and its sequels, will record an episode of their podcast *Jay & Silent Bob Get Old* live. (*Neptune Theatre, Fri April 20, 7:30 pm, \$36.*)

★ Kylie Minogue's Acid Playhouse

Start the evening with a happy hour of Minogue tunes before you plunge "down the rabbit hole" at 10—Uh Oh, Dolce Vida, Betty Wetter, Arson Nicki, and others will shock

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Mammoth Movie Night: 'Half Baked' with Silver City

**Mona Celia, Artemis Moon,
Smooth Richard, Foxy Apollo**

★ Nearly Dan

Phutureprimitive, Defunk, Pressha, Torbjørn
Electronica solo artist Phutureprimitive (aka Bay Area producer and songwriter Rain) will be joined by local DJs and producers Defunk, Pressha, and Torbjørn. (*Nectar, Fri April 20, 8 pm, \$18/\$20.*)

★ **Puget Soundtrack:**

Afrocop Presents 'A Scanner Darkly'

Resonate Fridays: Infected Mushroom

★ Seagaze Festival

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experimental free-wave weirdos blasting out post-punk, shoegaze, and psych rock. (*Lo-Fi Performance Gallery, April 26–29, \$10–\$40.*)

Seattle Reggae Scene 4/20 Celebration with DJ Slim

Advertised as the 4/20 celebration for all of Seattle's reggae scene, this night out in the Central District will boast plenty of dance-hall, reggae, and Afrobeat tracks thanks to guest selector DJ Slim with hosts DJ Nayiram and ZJ Veteran. (*Red Lounge, Fri April 20, 10 pm.*)

Sex and Smoking in Style

Enjoy complimentary cocktails and sex tips while you chat with J Wonder, the creator of the artful Wonder Pipes. Guests will save 20 percent on a limited supply. (*Babeland, Sat April 28, 7 pm, free.*)

Sleepless 4/20: Ketafere, Guests

Groove to the wavy eclecticism of back-to-back sets by Envymatic, Mastermind, Rndm Chld, Big Boppa, Luck Dragon, and Jaffar, plus a guest feature by Ketafere. (*Contour, Fri April 20, 10 pm, \$10.*)

★ Snoop Dogg, Migos, Wiz Khalifa

Billed as the country's largest 4/20 cannabis celebration, the "Wellness Retreat Tour" was put together by the longtime smoke-hazed king of ganja love himself, Snoop Dogg, who made headlines last year (and an enemy of Prez Trump) with his parody video for hit single "Lavender." The stealthy collab with Badbadnotgood comments on police brutality and features Snoop shooting a Trumped-up clown with a gag gun. He's joined by other hip-hop artists of the green-friendly persuasion, among them Georgia trio Migos and Wiz Khalifa. **LEILANI POLK** (*ShoWare Center, Sat April 21, 8 pm, \$65–\$75.*)

★ 'Super Troopers 2'

Jay Chandrasekhar (*Crazy Ex-Girlfriend*) is the mastermind behind this stoner comedy about a border dispute between the US and Canada and the Super Troopers' special high-way patrol within the disputed zone. (*Wide release, opening Fri April 20.*)

Tails from the Morgue:

The Monster Hash

"Super Villainess" Morgue Anne, with the help of dancers Vincent Millay, Harley Sin, and others, will present tales of that evil corruptor of youth, Mary Jane. (*Rendezvous, Sun April 22, 10 pm.*)

The Waldos' Special Ale Release 2018

Watch *Wayne's World* and bring something to tie-dye to celebrate the 4/20 release of the Waldos' "herbacious, botanical, dank, resinous" Special Ale. (*Lagunitas Tap Room, April 19–20.*)

Twiztid, Blaze, Gorilla Voltage, Legion Sik, Mister Penz, Concrete

Join Twiztid for their 21st year as a band, featuring live performances by Blaze, Gorilla Voltage, Legion Sik, Mister Penz, and Concrete. (*Studio Seven, Sun April 22, 6 pm, \$25/\$30.*)

★ 'Up in Smoke' 40th Anniversary

Weed culture and low comedy can be nauseating bedfellows, but after 40 years, Cheech & Chong's debut film, *Up in*

Smoke, remains an indelible document of counterculture insinuating itself into the mainstream, one van made entirely out of "fiberweed" at a time. The film is gross, inappropriate, and in poor taste at every turn, but, as Harry says to Sergeant Stedenko at the crucial moment, sometimes you just need to "go with it." **SEAN NELSON** (*SIFF Cinema Egyptian, Fri April 20, 9:30 pm, \$14.*)

Weedini: The Marijuana Magician

Weedini the Marijuana Magician (also known as the "Wizard of Weed") will make you laugh while performing astounding feats of "real psychedelic simulation." (*The Pocket Theater, Fri April 20, 10 pm, \$10/\$14.*)

★ Wiz Khalifa

Wiz Khalifa (aka Cameron Jibril Thomaz) has been on the scene since 2006, and he signed onto a major label (Warner Brothers) the following year. Hear him perform live on your weed holiday. (*Toyota Center Kennewick, Fri April 20, 8 pm, \$58–\$78.*)

May

★ 'The Big Lebowski' 20th Anniversary

This film, which former *Stranger* contributor Bradley Steinbacher once called his "single favorite Coen brothers movie," made *Rolling Stone's* list of "10 Best Stoner Movies of All Time." (*Central Cinema, May 25–30, \$5–\$10.*)

Hempfest Central Turns 6

Local headshop Hempfest Central will celebrate six years of pot service by offering door prizes and 25 percent off glass. (*Hempfest Central, Fri May 4, 7 am–10 pm, free.*)

The High Council, OSO, Caveman Ego

Ultimate Phish-head reggae-rock weed-centric jam band the High Council will take over Ballard for a double set with support from OSO and Caveman Ego. (*Substation, Fri May 18, 8 pm, \$10.*)

June

DOPE Cup

DOPE Cup 2018 pits vendors of pot-centered goods in a competition for, you guessed it, the DOPE Cup (as well as prizes in 18 product categories). (*Dockside Cannabis, Fri June 1.*)

Hemp History Week

Hempfest Central will give you a primer on the history and many uses of hemp as part of this nationwide campaign—but this festival is far from academic. This year's events include a hemp cooking demo on June 6 and a creative hemp DIY session on June 9. (*Hempfest Central, June 4–10, free.*)

August

★ Seattle Hempfest

This massive annual cannabis convocation boasts five stages of speakers and live music, plus crafts, food, and informational vendors. (*Myrtle Edwards Park, Aug 17–19, donation.*)

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THE FIRST TIME

In 1998 my skater friend, Matt, told me he smoked weed with some dirt-ball classmates at school...



Later Matt brought some over to my mom's apartment. I was terrified!



We went into a ditch near a construction site and that's where I smoked weed for the first time.



I walked around, waiting to feel high but didn't feel any different, so I faked it.



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Noah Van Ziver 2018



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